UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/ICEF/1994/P/L.1
21 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Executive Board
Winter organizational session
14-15 February 1994

FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR PROGRAMME COOPERATION

UNICEF Maurice Pate Award

The Executive Director recommends that, for 1994, the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award be granted to the All-China Women's Federation, and that the Executive Board approve an allocation of $25,000 from general resources for this purpose.

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1. Nominations for the 1994 UNICEF Maurice Pate Award were invited from Executive Board member Governments, UNICEF offices and National Committees for UNICEF. By the closing date, a total of eight nominations were received as follows: two from the Americas and the Caribbean; three from Asia; two from Europe and North America; and one from the Middle East. There were no nominations from Africa.

2. At the Bureau's first regular meeting on 8 October 1993, all eight nominations were presented. Although all the nominees are worthy of recognition, the Executive Director - with the endorsement of the Bureau - recommends that the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award for 1994 be awarded to the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF), in recognition of its exemplary leadership in promoting the well-being of children and women on a nationwide scale. Using a visionary approach combining traditional practices with modern methods, ACWF has been able to use its trained network of women's groups to promote health, education and children's rights as well as to improve the status of girls and women. Despite the disparities in a country as vast as China, ACWF policies and programmes have made a significant contribution to realizing the goals for children and development in the 1990s.

3. Founded in 1949, ACWF is one of the largest women's non-governmental organizations in the world. With the mammoth task of covering a population of 1.139 billion, ACWF reaches out effectively to women in all 30 provinces. Through its innovative strategies, it has been able to mobilize village and neighbourhood women from different ethnic and socio-economic groups, ultimately transforming sectoral projects into social movements.

4. China has reduced greatly the number of vaccine-preventable diseases, but initially the communities were not always receptive to immunization. The network of women's groups, which works with the day-to-day support of 100,000 professional workers, helped the Ministry of Public Health to break down many of the socio-cultural barriers to immunization, leading to - and sustaining - high levels of immunization coverage for well over five years.

5. In addition to advocating implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ACWF has supported actively the national "Three Priorities" programme. Initiated before the formulation of the 1990s goals, the programme's priorities are "better outcome of pregnancy", "better child-rearing" and "better education". ACWF initiatives include the training of pre-school teachers, improving community-managed pre-schools and disseminating information on maternal health and child care.

6. The Federation, in partnership with local authorities, has strengthened 130,000 "Parents Schools" by training teachers in family life education. Hundreds of thousands of parents have been motivated to become better child-care providers.

7. In the underserved minority areas, the disparities in primary school enrolment between boys and girls are particularly acute. Through home visits, ACWF village workers encourage parents to send their daughters to school. The Federation advocates increased recruitment of women teachers in these areas where it is still taboo for older girls to be taught by men.

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8. Working with UNICEF, under the auspices of the State Council's Coordinating Committee on the Work for Women and Children, ACWF played a major role in the development of the National Plan of Action. It continues to coordinate the development of effective monitoring and evaluation methods.

9. ACWF has not limited its activities to the survival and development of children. It also has provided leadership in the enactment of laws to protect the rights of women and children such as the Law for the Protection of Minors in China and the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women, which was passed in 1992. Furthermore, in 1983, ACWF sponsored the establishment of the Child Development Centre of China. The Centre undertakes applied research for policy formulation and improved programming for children.

10. However, the most outstanding results are evident in the empowerment of rural women by ACWF. Through mass literacy campaigns, skills training, leadership training and advocacy, the lives of millions of women have been transformed. Imbued with self-confidence, they have been able to diversify their economic activities and supplement their low incomes. The number of women in formal employment rose from 600,000 in 1949 to 56 million in 1992. To date, 90 million women have received some form of skills training. More women are now involved actively in the formulation of national laws and policies that affect women and children. The number of women delegates in the National People's Congress has increased from 154 in 1954 to 626 in 1992.

11. ACWF programmes and policies deserve international recognition. They are a living example of what countries can achieve when the needs of women and children are at the forefront of development policies at both provincial and national levels.

Background of the Award

12. At a special session on 11 November 1965, the Executive Board approved the recommendation of the Executive Director that the Nobel Peace Prize money be used to establish a fund in memory of Maurice Pate, the first Executive Director of UNICEF (E/ICEF/537). Approval in principle was also given to a suggestion that the fund should be used to strengthen the training or experience of people serving in child welfare-related fields in countries with which UNICEF was cooperating. It was believed that a memorial fund which contributed actively to the general purpose of UNICEF would have particularly appealed to Mr. Pate, and it was agreed that a more detailed plan would be submitted to the May 1966 session of the Board.

13. In May 1966, the Board approved a plan submitted by the Executive Director (E/ICEF/542, paras. 76-83) for a memorial fund that would give recognition to the value of regional training facilities in fields benefiting children. Each year, the fund would honour an institution in a developing country that adapted and offered its services to people from countries in the region. The selected institution would be given some modest assistance to strengthen its services to other developing countries.

14. By the end of 1978, the original funding and contributions for this Award were exhausted and, in 1979, the Executive Board approved the continuation of the Award from general resources (E/ICEF/P/L.1906 (REC)).

15. At its 1988 session, the Executive Board approved the recommendation that the Board confer annually the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award, as detailed in document E/ICEF/1988/P/L.37, for extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement of the survival, protection and development of children, whether on a national, regional or global scale. The Award could be conferred upon an institution, organization or individual with or without government affiliation. A timetable and procedures for the nomination and selection process were to be established by the secretariat (see E/ICEF/1988/13, annex I, paras. 45-47, and resolution 1988/9).

16. By broadening the criteria for recognition to include (a) achievements on behalf of children, (b) providing of resources to further those achievements and (c) the creation of examples lending themselves to emulation, the Executive Board can use the Award to encourage significant efforts on behalf of children. While encouraging leadership for children by individuals, the monetary benefits of the Award can be used to further activity, whether training, experience exchange or direct programme activity.

17. At its 1989 session, the Executive Board decided that the legislative procedure for selection of the Award recipient, as set forth in document E/ICEF/1988/P/L.37, would be further refined to reflect discussions in February 1989 with the Bureau and with various delegations (see E/ICEF/1989/L.14 and E/ICEF/1989/12, decision 1989/22), with the selection decision to be taken by the Board through mail poll, upon recommendation by the Bureau (in the last quarter of the year preceding the Executive Board session at which the Award is to be presented).

18. At the September 1989 Bureau meeting, the officers of the Board expressed the view that no Government or government-related officials should be nominated, that nominations should be sought from Board member Governments and that the Bureau should review and evaluate all nominations. In addition, they requested that equitable geographical rotation be ensured in the selection process. A document incorporating these recommendations for the Award criteria was prepared for submission to the 1990 Executive Board. However, after consultations between the Chairman of the Board and the secretariat and in view of the overcrowded agenda for the 1990 regular session, it was decided to defer submission of the new document to the 1991 regular session and to implement in practice and as practicable the above recommendations for the 1991 nominations.

19. The revised criteria for the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award, which also took into account views expressed by the new officers of the Board in September 1990, as contained in document E/ICEF/1991/L.2, were approved by the Board at its organizational session on 5 February 1991 (decision 1991/2).

20. The UNICEF Maurice Pate Award has been given as follows:

Year	Institution	Region
Prior to 1970	Various institutions	Africa, Asia and Americas
1970	Al-Azhar University, Egypt	Middle East and North Africa
1971	Regional Early Childhood Study, India	South Central Asia
1972	National Institute of Child Health, Tunisia	Middle East and North Africa
1973	University of Ibadan, Nigeria	West and Central Africa
1974	Asian Centre for Educational Innovation for Development, Thailand	East Asia and Pakistan
1975	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute	Americas and the Caribbean
1976	Family and Child Institute, Mexico	Americas and the Caribbean
1977	United Nations Asian Development Institute, Thailand	East Asia and Pakistan
1978	University of Nairobi, Kenya	Eastern and Southern Africa
1979	Nutrition and Child Welfare Committee, Zaire	West and Central Africa
1980	Not awarded	
1981	College of Health Sciences, Bahrain	Middle East and North Africa
1982	University of the West Indies (regional institution)	Americas and the Caribbean
1983	Pan-African Institute for Development	Africa
1984	International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh	Global

Year	Institution	Region
1985	National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, India	South Central Asia
1986	The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Global
1987	The Catholic Church of El Salvador	Americas and the Caribbean
1988	Pembinaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga (Family Welfare Movement), Indonesia	East Asia and Pakistan
1989	Madame Suzanne Mubarak, Egypt	Middle East and North Africa
1990	Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti, Nigeria	West and Central Africa
1991	Child-to-Child Trust, United Kingdom	Industrialized countries
1992	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, Bangladesh	South Asia
1993	The People and State of Ceara, Brazil	Americas and the Caribbean

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